

Avatar 1501

Chapter 1501: Sneaky Acting

Jump jump jump!

The two characters were both jumping nonstop on the manor wall. Windward Formation didn't use any skills to disrupt him, nor did Desert Dust use any techniques to harass him.

But just this kind of jumping and climbing was already enough to render the watching players dumbstruck.

The map came from an in-game environment, and the online Arena also had this map. With the vast number of Glory players, there were players who had visited this manor in-universe, and of course there were also those who liked to play on this map in the Arena.

But, to so easily leap and scale the side of this manor, this was evidently outside of the experience of ordinary players.

After this match, those Glory players who liked this map would probably once again begin to pay attention to this kind of technique of scaling the manor wall. It was in this manner that professional matches were at the forefront of Glory trends.

And of the two people on the field right now, Wei Chen was more familiar with the map, while Han Wenqing, having played so many battles, was extremely adaptive. Neither player's controls revealed any flaws.

But Han Wenqing's Desert Dust was still slightly faster. This wasn't because of any difference in skill, it was a result of the differences between their characters. Strikers were simply more nimble than Warlocks, and had superior movement and jumping ability.

But, he probably couldn't catch up, right?

Looking at the distance between the two characters, if they set the roof as the target, it didn't seem like Desert Dust had enough time to catch up to Windward Formation. Then, once Windward Formation reached the roof, he definitely wouldn't hold back in unleashing a harsh attack down upon Desert Dust, right?

Wei Chen didn't disappoint. Tossing stones at someone who had fallen into a well, that sort of thing was something he loved to do.

"Little Han, catch!"

As soon as he successfully reached the roof, the panic he'd shown earlier completely disappeared. Trash talk was joyfully resurrected in the match chat.

Nothing had even happened to Han Wenqing yet, but Tyranny's diehard fans were already getting nervous.

This Wei Chen clearly was limited in his ability, but as soon as he achieved a slight advantage, he simply made people extremely uncomfortable. That sort of completely unconcealed dirty and shameless play, it really made people both annoyed and fearful.

Whoosh whoosh whoosh whoosh...

Standing on the high ground, Windward Formation waved his Death's Hand, letting loose Curse Arrows, and he sent them scattering in various directions, making them fall like Chaotic Rain. They pattered down, taking advantage of the fact that there were limited footholds on the wall, and very little space to dodge.

But Desert Dust's arms trembled – Reinforced Iron Bones!

Super Armor was activated, and then Han Wenqing directly ignored the damage he took from Curse Arrows, and continued to use his fastest speed to travel the shortest path.

Wei Chen smiled slightly, and Windward Formation continued to sway his scepter.

Hexagram Prison!

Suddenly, six beams of light appeared in the air, falling straight down!

And the prediction involved in casting this skill wasn't cheap at all. Wei Chen correctly calculated the path Han Wenqing would take, and predicted where Desert Dust would step. But the skill didn't target the footholds, it targeted the midair path Desert Dust took as he jumped.

This was naturally harder than locking in on the footholds, but it was harder for the opponent to dodge, as well.

Wei Chen's reaction speed and hand speed weren't fast enough, but he was very confident in his accuracy when he stood up here and could calmly cast skills.

The pillars of light came down, and it looked like the midair Desert Dust had no way of dodging. But just when it looked like he was about to hit, Desert Dust's body suddenly plunged.

Thousand Ton Drop!

Han Wenqing controlled his character to use this skill. Desert Dust plummeted, even faster than the pillars of light were coming down. Just like that, he instantly put some distance between himself and the attack, and his foot landed on another foothold.

Hua!

Thousand Ton Drop was an attacking skill. When his foot hit this foothold, it was instantly crushed by this stomp, and rubble skittered down. But it was enough for Desert Dust to get some force, and he leapt to the side.

The six pillars of light brushed right past him. Desert Dust successfully dodged this attack, and continued upward without hesitation.

“Tsk tsk tsk, starting to wreck this place again? Careful not to wreck yourself!” Wei Chen reproached him in the chat. For Han Wenqing, who still hadn’t successfully made it to the top, breaking a foothold really wasn’t good news for him at all.

Death’s Hand waved once again.

Soul Strike!

Black light flashed outward.

Warlock skills carried many annoying side effects, and this skill was no exception. Soul Strike, as the name implied, directly attacked the target’s soul, causing the target to enter a Trance state. In game, this meant that the target’s controls had no effect.

Even though the effects of this skill lasted only for a very short amount of time, this was undoubtedly a powerful interrupt skill, and it could interrupt not only casts, but any sort of movement.

Take the current situation for example. Leaping up the wall required extremely precise controls. Jumping a distance of three body-lengths versus four body-lengths certainly required different amounts of jumping force. And this was all dependent upon the player to control and react.

At this moment, if someone was about to initiate a four body-length jump and was currently adjusting the amount of power to put into the jump, and was suddenly hit by a Soul Strike, then the jump power might only reach that of a two body-length jump, and the rest of the power would be lost. With that... trying to jump a four body-length gap with only a two body-length jump, wouldn’t he just fall?

And Wei Chen had seized upon this moment exactly. The black light flashed in front of Desert Dust, who was just landing. But his body swung...

The black light just barely flashed past Desert Dust. This Soul Strike, Han Wenqing had actually managed to dodge it.

“Ohhh!” The Tyranny fans, letting out a breath in relief, were very happy. This time, Wei Chen didn’t feel like spitting any words in the chat; his mood grew very serious.

If this Soul Strike hadn’t successfully interrupted Desert Dust’s jump power, then that could just be attributed to luck. But, it had missed altogether. How?

Wei Chen was very confident in the accuracy of his judgment and control. This attack he had calculated very well. But, he had still been too slow?

Wei Chen hurriedly began casting another skill.

Binding Curse!

Another flash of light, but, it missed again!

In such an advantageous condition, he had actually missed two times in a row?

The Happy fans lamented his bad luck, but Wei Chen knew that that definitely wasn’t the case.

After one miss, the second time, his prediction and controls had been even more careful. This second miss shouldn't be because of any problem on his end.

"Han Wenqing adjusted the rhythm." Watching the match, Ye Xiu had already seen what the problem was.

"The adjustment is very subtle..." Fang Rui said.

It seemed like a very normal adjustment, but coming from Han Wenqing, suddenly it seemed rather abnormal. Han Wenqing, who had always been a very open and direct player, would actually use this kind of fine-tuning on his rhythm, so slight that it was extremely difficult to detect.

"Has this guy really become so interesting now?" Ye Xiu mused.

Windward Formation continued to cast.

Another curse, another miss.

"Hahahaha!" The Tyranny fans in the stadium had begun to jeer and shout. This dirty-playing guy, he tried to play dirty but his attacks missed, it was extremely rewarding to watch.

"Old Wei still hasn't noticed?" Fang Rui furrowed his brow.

Even though Wei Chen might not compare to them in terms of pro experience, he had never left Glory after so many years, so his eyes were sharp. Han Wenqing's adjustment might be slight, but not so slight that Wei Chen wouldn't be able to detect it, right?

Just as he said this, the fourth spell missed as well.

"This is bad!" Fang Rui shouted, slapping his leg.

A curse missing wasn't a big deal, but the key was that this fourth curse, compared to the others, was clearly a bit more rushed. Instead of patiently waiting for the best opportunity, Wei Chen had cast it immediately after the third one missed, and hurriedly released it as soon as it was ready.

The panic of climbing the wall was resurfacing. Missing all of these skills in a row made Wei Chen very anxious. After the fourth curse missed, he again hurriedly began casting a fifth.

But by this time, Desert Dust was already almost at the roof. This skill was probably Wei Chen's last chance at a merciless attack. If he missed again, Wei Chen would lose his positional advantage.

And this time Wei Chen seemed even more panicked, because he used an even faster skill.

Soul Slice!

A blade of black light flashed outward toward Desert Dust.

But just by looking at the moment he released the skill, the experienced players were already sighing.

"He released it early..."

Huang Shaotian had already texted such a lament to Yu Wenzhou, and he was already in the process of writing a new one, too: "Boss Wei's a bit too nervous..."

But just as he was burying his head in the text, an unexpected situation suddenly emerged onstage.

The Soul Slice didn't hit. Desert Dust stepped on the final foothold, but just when he was about to reach the roof, but his character suddenly started falling.

How?

Everyone was shocked. The broadcast director reacted swiftly, splitting the screen to show a replay.

That moment that Desert Dust landed on that last foothold, it shattered from the impact, and he fell with it...

"Little Han, catch!"

High-spirited trash talk once again floated into the chat.

Everyone was dumbfounded, including Wei Chen's teammates.

"Fuck!" Fang Rui was slapping his leg again. As expected of the master of dirty playing, as soon as he saw this result, he instantly understood what Wei Chen had done.

He'd been pretending. It was all an act!

This guy had also probably detected the slight adjustments Han Wenqing had made to his rhythm, but these adjustments were changing often, so even if he could tell the rhythm was changing, it would be very difficult for him to grasp it.

And so, Wei Chen pretended that he couldn't grasp it at all, he missed skill after skill, and he even adjusted his own rhythm to give off the impression that he was panicked and rushed.

Even Fang Rui, this master of dirty play, had been fooled. Did it even have to be said, how superb this acting was?

And so, the final killing blow simply came from landing on the final foothold.

How come it didn't hold? Wei Chen had messed with it, of course!

Even as Desert Dust fell, Han Wenqing was still resolute. He pulled his view downward, and could already see another foothold below him, but...

Whoosh...

Black light flashed past.

The Soul Slice cut that foothold.

The missed Soul Slice had never been targeting Desert Dust. Wei Chen put on a good show.

And at this moment, Death's Hand flashed with magic energy, gathering into a raincloud – Chaotic Rain.

The skill's cooldown had finally ended, and it was once again cast by Windward Formation. And this time, Desert Dust had absolutely no way of dodging.

The Chaotic Rain poured down, bringing the Confusion, and Desert Dust continued to plummet.

There might have been more footholds further down, but under the Confusion status, how could he possibly find them...

And at the very bottom, on the ground, unnatural wind blew.

The powerful skill, Winding Wraiths, was already ready to welcome Desert Dust...

Huang Shaotian, who had still been in the middle of expressing his emotions to Yu Wenzhou in a text, stared with his mouth hanging open. He put his phone down.

The battle was decided. A target controlled by a Warlock to this extent had no possibility of escape.

In the deciding battle of the group arena, Wei Chen won.

In the group arena, Happy won!

Chapter 1502: Rivals of Ten Years Meet Once More

“Heh, Little Han, you’re still too green.”

This was the last message Wei Chen left in the group arena chat, something that was enough to make all Glory players spit blood.

If even Han Wenqing was still too green, then was there even anyone who could be considered a veteran? That boast was just completely illogical.

However, this was Happy’s home stadium. As Happy fans, this was something they could totally laugh about.

However, for Tyranny fans it was frustrating. They wouldn’t fear losing, but losing to a guy like this was absolutely disgusting, especially when the one who lost was their most respected captain, Han Wenqing.

No one would blame Han Wenqing for this loss. They had seen his usual courage and determination. It was this opponent; he was too sly, too tricky, too shameless...

Perhaps, on some level, this kind of opponent was the bane of Han Wenqing’s straightforward style!

The group arena had ended, and the two players walked out of their booths simultaneously. Wei Chen, of course, wore a face full of joy, waving at the crowd while shamelessly making a whole lap around the stadium. Even the wild jeers when he passed by the stands for the guest team fans didn’t dampen his smile. In fact, his smile just grew and he was even more enthusiastic in his waving.

The security were restless, as if prepared to face a monster. These were Tyranny fans they were talking about. Was this guy looking to get killed, provoking the Tyranny fans like that? They hurriedly arranged for more people over here while they sent people to try and talk Wei Chen down from his celebrating.

Wei Chen didn’t give them any trouble, finishing his rounds and returning to the Happy player bench. Happy’s members had stood to welcome their hero back.

“Sit, sit, please, sit,” Wei Chen energetically waved his hands at them.

Everyone laughed. None of them said anything about the way he was behaving because they all knew how important this victory was to Wei Chen, how hard he worked for it.

"It's all up to you guys now," Wei Chen then said. Next up was the team competition and he wasn't in the lineup.

"Don't worry," Ye Xiu nodded at him.

"Huff..." Wei Chen exhaled heavily and looked back at the screen.

Everything he had accomplished, the victory he had earned, it was all clearly recorded there. This might not be the most spectacular victory he had claimed, but it was definitely the most satisfying. Time wouldn't let him remain in this moment, but he knew he would never forget any of this.

With the group arena at an end, Happy had a one point lead. The effect of their victory on their morale was significant though realistically speaking, a lead of one point was negligible in the team competition.

Neither team returned to their battle prep rooms, making their arrangements for the team competition right then and there.

The match was only just beginning!

The two teams made surprisingly synchronized pep talks. For Happy, it was mostly reminding everyone that they shouldn't drop their guard due to their lead from the group arena. For Tyranny, it was about not letting the group arena results get them down. However, the gist of both was the same: a one point lead was nothing.

Both teams were solemn. After boasting for a while, Wei Chen tactfully quietened down, analysing their path of action in the team competition seriously with the others.

Time flew by, and the referee was already on the outskirts of the stage, staring at his watch and getting ready to call the teams to the stage.

Team Tyranny, with a one point disadvantage, rose from their seats first and headed for the stage without needing prompting from the referee.

Han Wenqing, Lin Jingyan, Zhang Jiale, Qin Muyun, Zhang Xinjie, and sixth player Bai Yanfei.

This was the formation that Tyranny used last season to charge into the championships, as well as what people viewed as their core formation. It was just that Han Wenqing, Lin Jingyan and Zhang Jiale were on rotation this season and with the addition of their new little general Song Qiyang, this formation rarely appeared. It didn't even appear in the first round of the playoffs.

Yet now, against Happy, in their first away game, Tyranny used the formation they had used to aim for the championships last season.

Tyranny's fans started clapping, screaming, cheering their team on.

And on Happy's side? Captain Ye Xiu merely glanced over nonchalantly when the cheering started before turning back and continuing to speak.

However, the match was about to start, so Ye Xiu finished his pep talk with a few last sentences.

“Let’s go!” With that, Team Happy’s players also stood.

Ye Xiu, Su Mucheng, Fang Rui, Tang Rou, An Wenyi, none of them were unexpected, but the last player...

“Who is this?” Pan Lin inquired in the broadcast, hesitant.

“Luo Ji? Happy is putting Luo Ji?” Pan Lin said, shocked.

Luo Ji... The name felt foreign on his tongue because he rarely ever had to say this name in the broadcast.

In the regular season, Happy rarely sent Luo Ji up. It was only near the end of the season that he saw more match time.

However, Luo Ji was different from Wei Chen. Wei Chen’s sudden participation at the end of the regular season was clearly to help him adjust his state in preparation for the playoffs. But what about Luo Ji? Luo Ji was a rookie, a young player. His participation was, everyone guessed, a form of acquiring battle experience while the circumstances allowed it.

From these few matches, everyone could see that Luo Ji was special, but he wasn’t particularly skilled yet.

Perhaps he was a player with potential, with a future ahead of him, but right now, he needed more time to grow.

That’s what everyone thought.

However, Luo Ji had appeared in the second round of the playoffs, in the roster for Happy and Tyranny’s team competition.

“Is there some mistake?” Pan Lin wasn’t sure if he should believe his eyes. What if Luo Ji just so happened to stand up?

But it wasn’t so.

The team lineups were already being displayed on the big screen. Not only was Luo Ji’s name among them, it was in the starting five as well. Happy had arranged for Tang Rou to be the sixth player.

It wasn’t possible that this was just a chance for a rookie to acquire battle experience, not here in the playoffs. On this battlefield, there was no holding back.

Then, could it be that Luo Ji was a weapon that Happy planned on using against Tyranny?

Discussions erupted in the venue and online. Pan Lin once again asked for Li Yibo to give his professional analysis. In the end, Li Yibo managed to avoid a proper explanation by explaining Luo Ji’s playstyle.

The two sides lined up, facing each other on the stage.

The first to shake hands were, naturally, the two captains.

Rivals of ten years. The two had faced each other in all four finals of the first four seasons. It was also on this stage that their paths became intimately entwined, pitted against one another.

In the next seasons, the fifth, the sixth, the seventh, the two teams didn't clash. Excellent Era began their fall from grace, and Han Wenqing, too, began to fall. Everything spoke to them, telling them that their era had ended. Professional Glory had entered a new era of those that came after.

Then, in season eight, Ye Xiu retired, bidding this stage farewell, and Han Wenqing became the only first generation player that was still struggling through this battlefield.

That season, Team Tyranny was quickly eliminated from the playoffs. The people sighed wistfully, witnessing the end of an era.

Who would've thought that in the ninth season Team Tyranny would invite a bunch of veterans and stand once more at the highest stage of Glory.

Then, in the tenth season, Ye Xiu led his very own team back into the league.

Now, these two once again were shaking hands on this very stage where their rivalry grew.

Had that era returned?

Seeing this scene, some older fans of Glory found their minds wandering. The battles between these two, it was the memories of that past era! Everyone thought that era had ended, but how come these two were meeting here once more?

"You've improved!" Ye Xiu said, shaking Han Wenqing's hand. They were rivals, but perhaps it was he that understood the one standing in front of him the most. Once upon a time, Ye Xiu had put his everything into defeating this man. He was familiar with Han Wenqing's awareness, mechanics, methods, and he would be the first to notice the slightest change.

"Your unspecialized isn't bad either," Han Wenqing replied. He had changed, but he definitely hadn't changed nearly as much as this guy. In the resolution of his pro career, he had given up on his best and most familiar Battle Mage for the strange class known as the unspecialized. However, Han Wenqing understood more than anyone how the unspecialized might suit Ye Xiu so, because like Ye Xiu knew him, he also knew Ye Xiu.

Glory Textbook, this title was no exaggeration, he was more knowledgeable than one could imagine.

"It's not too late to surrender," Ye Xiu said.

"Are you talking to me?" Han Wenqing's reply was cold. Surrender? That word didn't exist in his dictionary.

Ye Xiu chuckled, but said no more, shaking hands with each of Tyranny's members one by one. Zhang Xinjie, Zhang Jiale, Lin Jingyan... these were old opponents that he couldn't be more familiar with. The so-called "that era" wasn't something created by just the two of them. Countless people had already left this battlefield, but who knew if they were watching the ones who were still fighting for Glory from whatever corner of the world they were in.

The players of the two teams headed towards their booths, their characters loading into the map. Some of these characters were more than familiar to the public, but some had only appeared beginning this season. Perhaps, compared to the players, these characters would be better at preserving the legacy of

Glory. When the day came that Ye Xiu, Han Wenqing, Zhang Jiale and the others left this battlefield for good, the characters that they once used would continue to carry everything they had left behind.

The second round of the playoffs, Happy's home game against Tyranny, let the team competition, begin!

Chapter 1503: A Shift in Style

Team competition map: Full Moon Forest.

As soon as the name of the map came out, Pan Lin and Li Yibo immediately started introducing the characteristics of the map.

Full Moon Forest had the name "forest" in it, but in reality, the forest set the boundaries for the map. The scenario for the setting was a little village inside a forest. The village had a lot of content, but the layout of the map was relatively simple, it didn't have complicated intertwining alleyways like the larger city maps. The entire village only had four buildings.

The southwest corner had a blacksmith's shop. The northeast corner had a grocery market. The southeast corner had a storehouse and a watchtower. The northwest corner was the residential area. The houses were built on top of trees with drawbridges connecting the trees together.

Directly to the south of the village was a small pond. To the north was an altar, which was the most open area in the map. There were several large trees providing shade scattered throughout the village. Although it couldn't be considered a forest, it provided a good amount of cover.

In general, the map was not a place for a direct confrontation. Very few teams chose simple maps in the playoffs. Every team wanted to utilize their home game advantage to the fullest and pick a map that best suited their team.

After introducing the map, Pan Lin and Li Yibo began analyzing what advantages Happy would have as the home team. This topic was much more complicated than an introduction of the map. Pan Lin mainly became a question-asker, giving Li Yibo the main spotlight. Li Yibo could only force himself to analyze the issue at hand. Every few sentences, he would chuckle an awkward "haha" to cover up his lack of confidence.

As the two discussed the topic, the match officially began.

Happy spawned at the southwest corner, surrounded on three sides by trees. From afar, they could see the blacksmith's shop to the northeast. Tyranny spawned at the opposite end of the map at the northeast corner. Their spawn point was the exact same as Happy's spawn point, surrounded on three sides by trees. From afar, they could see a grocery market to the southwest.

The two teams went along the only path available. Not long afterwards, a brilliant blue pond appeared to the east of Happy, while an altar appeared to the west of Tyranny.

Team Happy was the home team. They naturally had a plan in mind. Once the pond became visible, they had more directions to choose from. In the end, Happy moved towards the northwest towards the residential area.

On the other hand, once Tyranny had more directions to choose from, they immediately slowed down.

As the away team, they weren't as familiar with the map compared to the home team, so slowing down the pace was normal. However, as Team Tyranny, slowing down out of caution was very rare.

On one hand, it could be seen how highly Tyranny looked upon Happy. On another hand, it could be seen that it wasn't just Han Wenqing adjusting, but rather the entire team. All of them were changing their usual pace under their captain's lead.

Li Yibo had once been a part of Tyranny, so he was very acute to these changes and started confidently discussing this topic. As for the home team advantages that Happy had with this map and the logic behind choosing this map, he put them aside for now...

The two teams moved on their own accord. Neither of them saw each other. It felt like the calm before a storm. Team Happy's movements were decisive. When they reached the residential area, they began hiding. In the end, Ye Xiu's Lord Grim was the only one who hadn't hidden himself in a residence. Instead, he went along the road, cutting across towards the altar.

Everyone was stunned.

Because the careful Tyranny just happened to be moving towards the altar as well. Li Yibo was talking about this area too. There was no pressure from the map disadvantage for Tyranny because of the openness of the altar area.

But just when Li Yibo was talking about Tyranny's choice, Ye Xiu moved towards the altar a step ahead of them.

As a result, Lord Grim soon came into Tyranny's line of sight.

Kakaka!

Gunfire immediately came from Team Tyranny's side. Zhang Jiale took the initiative and had Dazzling Hundred Blossoms start their offensive.

Han Wenqing was always the first to rush out, but when facing his long-time rival, he remained calm and collected. Not only did he not immediately charge forward, he stopped.

It was a 5v1 confrontation, but Tyranny unexpectedly didn't immediately pounce on the opportunity.

"Tyranny is playing quite cautiously," Pan Lin emphasized the word "quite".

"What? No one's coming?" Seeing how Tyranny wasn't coming, Ye Xiu immediately started taunting them.

Tyranny's players were old generals, plus with their familiarity with Ye Xiu's personality, no one was bothered by this bit of taunting. Tyranny's five players ignored him. Zhang Jiale and Qin Muyun, the two Gunners, split to the left and right, expanding their team's field of vision while forming a pincer towards Lord Grim. Han Wenqing, Lin Jingyan, and Zhang Xinjie formed a triangle. Desert Dust and Dark Thunder at the front, while Zhang Xinjie's Immovable Rock stood at the back. The three slowly advanced.

Tyranny wasn't like before. In the past, the team would have charged forward as if they were trying to cut open a mountain. Now, they were gently carrying out their offense as if they were droplets of water grinding down stone. The current Tyranny was almost unrecognizable.

Ye Xiu didn't continue with his trash talk. He had lord Grim retreat back.

He had no choice but to retreat.

Tyranny's formation looked to be very simple, but Ye Xiu was able to tell that their formation could cover a large area. At the same time, they could shrink and extend freely, instantly converging into Tyranny's specialty, a frontal assault.

"Looks like they've got a few new tricks up their sleeves."

It seemed to be just a few simple adjustments, but it left a deep impression in Ye Xiu. He could see that this formation was finally bringing out Zhang Xinjie's talents to the fullest. Zhang Xinjie's style conflicted with Tyranny's. After a series of adjustments from the team, they were beginning to assimilate together perfectly.

One of the four Master Tacticians, Zhang Xinjie.

The Zhang Xinjie who won the championships as a starter in the main roster in his first year.

His potential was still far from being cleanly realized!

Ye Xiu retreated.

He chose to retreat without even attempting anything.

He was clear and decisive, leaving the hesitation for Tyranny.

Lord Grim came alone. He obviously couldn't 1v5, and it was obvious what Happy was planning.

Tyranny wasn't familiar with the map, so they didn't know what sort of ambushes Happy could set up. Zhang Jiale and Qin Muyun scouted their two sides and confirmed that there was no possibility of a pincer. Tyranny had just come from the back. From how much time had passed, it wasn't possible for Happy to have circled around them.

In that case, Ye Xiu had come alone to bait them into an ambush. Now that he had retreated, if Tyranny advanced forward, they would certainly be caught in an ambush. However, if they did not advance and stalled for time, they would give an opportunity for Happy to circle around them.

Zhang Jiale and Qin Muyun had confirmed that their left and right sides were safe. The altar itself was a flat area, but there were numerous ambush spots in the surroundings. The altar wasn't that large either, so using the surroundings as cover to set up an ambush was a big threat.

If Tyranny didn't move, would Happy seize the opportunity to surround them?

No one could tell what plans the two teams had in mind. Everyone could only wait and see.

Tyranny didn't move. Happy didn't move.

Tyranny didn't give chase. As a result, Ye Xiu didn't have Lord Grim continue retreating. Happy's four characters, who were hiding in the residential area, stayed still too.

The ten years of rivalry didn't immediately set off blazing sparks, instead, the two sides were carefully probing each other's actions. It had to be known that with their understanding of each other, neither side originally needed to do any probing to know the other side's thoughts.

However, Ye Xiu had a new team behind him, and Han Wenqing's unyielding fierceness that had been a part of him for ten years had begun to become more flexible.

The two pro players at the ends of their career, the two rivals of ten years were still as diligent as ever, looking for ways to break through.

It was because of this that the two sides were more careful. They wanted to be the first to see through their changed opponent, while not letting themselves be seen through.

Ye Xiu didn't retreat. Han Wenqing didn't advance. The confrontation lasted nearly 30 seconds, when suddenly, Tyranny headed diagonally in the 10 o'clock direction.

This movement had been as swift as the wind. Tyranny's original style was instantly displayed. When the team had been making adjustments, they didn't let go of their strongest and most reliable weapon.

However, Ye Xiu had seen this weapon many times and didn't even raise an eyebrow towards it. Instead, when he saw the fierce charge, he smirked.

"What are you charging blindly for? You guys aren't surrounded." Ye Xiu typed into the chat.

How could he not see through Tyranny's intent? The standoff was to let Happy make their setup. Then, before Happy could complete their encirclement, they would suddenly burst out and break through it.

"Yes, how could you not see it?" Zhang Xinjie replied.

"Then, what are you planning?" Ye Xiu asked.

"Positioning." Zhang Xinjie replied.

Ye Xiu was surprised. When he took a look at Tyranny's position right now, Tyranny was outside of the altar. Behind them was a flat path, which they could either advance or retreat from. To their left and right was the forest. Compared to their previous position at the center of the altar, they were much less in the open and in a far better position than before.

Li Yibo had analyzed as such. After listeners heard his analysis, they couldn't help but question it.

Is that all?

Everyone thought to themselves.

All they did was move from one place to another, had Tyranny really needed to be so careful? If Tyranny had just strolled over, what would happen? Ye Xiu's Lord Grim would rush at them and try to stop them?

That was what everyone else thought, but not Ye Xiu.

It was a very simple movement, but this simple movement showed Tyranny's spirit.

The Tyranny of before had centered around their captain, Han Wenqing. The Tyranny of today had finally begun shifting their center towards their vice-captain, Zhang Xinjie.

Chapter 1504: A Lot of Familiar Things

No openings.

Zhang Xinjie made the least amount of mistakes out of any player in the Glory Alliance, and this characteristic was one of his most notable strengths. Now, it was being realized in Team Tyranny's tactics.

In the past, Tyranny's bold and aggressive playstyle made it impossible not to make mistakes. As a result, they relied on overwhelming force to push their way through. But now, things were different.

By waiting for half a minute, not only did they not walk into a trap, they promptly interrupted a potential play from Happy before positioning themselves into a more open space, which allowed for them to retreat or advance as they wished. The hidden danger was silently resolved in this way.

Perhaps only someone like Ye Xiu, who had a deep understanding of Tyranny, could these sort of changes clearly.

After moving to the wide open street, Tyranny finally began scouting ahead.

Han Wenqing's Desert Dust and Lin Jingyan's Dark Forest at the front, Zhang Jiale's Dazzling Hundred Blossoms and Qin Muyun's Negative Nine Degrees at the back on the left and right, respectively, and Zhang Xinjie's Immovable Rock at the center.

The team maintained this formation as they approached Lord Grim. With every step, they seemed to be finding new information.

Retreat?

With how calm and collected Tyranny was moving, retreating would not bait them into action.

Advance?

What good would that do? It wasn't like he could charge in and 1v5!

However, Ye Xiu's Lord Grim really did advance forward, matching their every step.

Before Tyranny's fans could react to Ye Xiu's insane decision, two players dashed out from Tyranny's formation.

Dazzling Hundred Blossoms.

Negative Nine Degrees.

The two long-ranged gunners unexpectedly took the lead, while Han Wenqing's Desert Dust and Lin Jingyan's Dark Thunder continued to move forward at their original pace.

Gunfire burst forth. The two gunners focused their fire towards Lord Grim.

Retreat?

No, the two Gunners had blocked off the area behind Lord Grim. The two were sealing off his retreat path. Retreating would be exactly what they wanted.

Don't retreat?

The moment the gunfire stopped Lord Grim from escaping, Desert Dust and Dark Thunder suddenly sped up, dashing towards Lord Grim.

An assault from all sides was completed in an instant!

"Beautiful!" Pan Lin cried out.

Ye Xiu's response to this beautiful offensive was extremely simple. He opened up his umbrella as a shield and pointed it in Negative Nine Degrees' direction.

Peng peng peng peng...

The bullets bouncing off of his umbrella sounded quite peculiar. With the bullets blocked, Lord Grim was about to stroll his way out of danger, when white flames suddenly burst from the ground.

Sacred Fire!

Taking advantage of the fact that Ye Xiu's vision was blocked from his own umbrella shield, Zhang Xinjie cast a Sacred Fire, surrounding Lord Grim in white flames.

Three seconds of Silence, three seconds of opportunity!

In an instant, dazzling light swallowed the area. Lord Grim's figure became blurry as Desert Dust and Dark Thunder dashed into the light.

The crowd let out a cry of surprise.

Tyranny's sudden burst of speed from their initial slow and methodical manner was truly shocking.

Tyranny's tactics had become more varied. Not only did it not weaken their offense, it upped their explosiveness by another level through an abrupt change in tempo. In addition, their change in tactics didn't leave behind a single opening.

To allow for a sudden increase in tempo, every step need to be carefully thought out for there to be not opening.

Sharpshooter attacks were single-target attacks and were very easy to block with a shield. So what if you blocked them? There's a Sacred Fire laying in wait!

Facing such a watertight arrangement, even if the experienced Ye Xiu could see through it, what could he do? There was simply no way to break out.

"Ye Xiu got careless!" Even Li Yibo, who had become even more careful for this match, dared to criticize Ye Xiu.

That was what everyone else was thinking too.

Going alone to challenge an entire team was brave, but challenging the team and then getting killed for it was embarrassing.

Ye Xiu was in an extremely dangerous and embarrassing situation, yet... there were still no signs of movement from the rest of Happy.

The broadcast had split the screen to show the perspectives of the four players on Happy, and they could definitely see Lord Grim's predicament. However, to everyone's surprise, they stuck to their original plan and didn't go over to help.

They can't be that inflexible, can they? It was hard to avoid asking this question.

It was true that pre-match preparations were important, but the other 70% of the match depended on the team's response to the circumstances of the match. There was no team who would do nothing seeing this situation.

Unless... they were confident that they needed to make any moves.

The camera once again locked onto Lord Grim.

Lord Grim had already been swallowed by the Hundred Blossoms style, and Han Wenqing and Lin Jingyan needed only a few more steps to reach him. During these 3 seconds, Lord Grim wouldn't be able to use any skills. Inside the light, a blurry shape could be seen spinning round and round in a circle.

How long could 3 seconds be?

After a few circles, the blurry figure in the light suddenly sped up. In the next instant, Lord Grim could be seen clear as day in front of everyone.

Lord Grim had escaped from the Hundred Blossoms besiegement, while under the three seconds of Silence from Sacred Fire.

The crowd was silent in shock.

A replay quickly appeared on the big screen. This time, the camera zoomed in, paying close attention to Lord Grim.

All sorts of bullets and grenades had been thrown at Lord Grim. Lord Grim couldn't use any skills. He could only wave around the umbrella in his hands, blocking what he could as he moved. Three seconds later, through a skill that increased his movement speed, he broke out from the Hundred Blossoms style.

The viewers continued to be at a loss. Despite seeing the slow-motion replay, they still couldn't understand. How could he escape by just blocking a few attacks?

Only Zhang Jiale understood. Only the person who created the Hundred Blossoms style could.

Only he knew that Lord Grim's spinning umbrella wasn't just to block some damage, it was to block the attacks that the Hundred Blossoms style used to restrict the opponent.

It was because he blocked those few skills that the light of the Hundred Blossoms style still existed, yet did little to obstruct its target. After the Sacred Fire wore off, Ye Xiu immediately rushed out with a movement skill, leaving Han Wenqing and Lin Jingyan in the dust.

In other words, even though Tyranny's tactics had no openings, Zhang Jiale's Hundred Blossoms style had been seen through by Ye Xiu.

Ye Xiu's understanding of Zhang Jiale was not much worse than his understanding of his long-time rival Han Wenqing.

The Hundred Blossoms style? Not just this season, just counting the past, it had been around for a whole six years.

As Zhang Jiale's attitude changed, the Hundred Blossoms style had also changed, but no matter how much the style changed, there were only so many Spitfire skills. By understanding the purpose of each skill, it was often possible to counter the style.

The theory sounded simple, but there were only a handful who could do it in practice.

Ye Xiu had done it because of his understanding of the style and his experience. After seeing the role of each player in Tyranny's formation, he was able to immediately deduce Zhang Jiale's aim during this period of time.

As for how Zhang Jiale would use his skills, with how diverse the Hundred Blossoms style was, there was no way for Ye Xiu to predict it 100%, but he could at least make the mental preparations to defend against the most important attacks. The other part was that Lord Grim had a very big shield.

Lord Grim rushed out from the encirclement and swiftly retreated. Tyranny's two long-ranged characters chased after him, but the tempo of the two Fighters immediately slowed.

They didn't pursue him relentlessly because they didn't forget that the other four members of Happy were very likely lying in wait for them here.

As a result, once Lord Grim escaped from Tyranny's attack range, Tyranny slowed down as a whole. They went back into a stable formation and slowly approached one step at a time.

Patience. They were playing very patiently.

They had been dreaming of winning the championships for so many years. What was a few seconds of patience to them?

Tyranny steadily pushed forward, making Ye Xiu's challenge towards them seem childish. Even if he had escaped from what Li Yibo thought as impossible to escape from, in terms of energy, Tyranny had the upper hand.

Li Yibo had just been slapped in the face. His mood wasn't good, and he didn't want to speak anymore. The majority of people in the stadium were Happy fans. They had been worried seeing that scene. They couldn't understand why no one in Happy did anything to help. What was Happy's plan?

No instructions had been typed into Happy's team chat, which meant that everything so far had been a part of Happy's pre-match plans. Their strategy seemed to be to lure the opponents deep into their territory, but seeing Tyranny now, they definitely weren't going to fall into that sort of trap. Even so, Happy was insistent on following with their plans.

"What are they doing?" Even Huang Shaotian couldn't understand. He messaged Yu Wenzhou.

“Maybe they wanted to have a better feel for Tyranny’s tactical structure?” Yu Wenzhou wasn’t certain either.

“In that case, did they need to do that?”

“If they didn’t do it that way, who else besides Ye Xiu could escape from that sort of predicament?” Yu Wenzhou replied.

Huang Shaotian held his cellphone in his hands for a long time, but he didn’t reply.

Everyone would always ask this question to themselves subconsciously.

Escape from the Hundred Blossoms style the way Ye Xiu did?

Extremely difficult.

Huang Shaotian had a certain level of understanding of the Hundred Blossoms style, but not to the same level of depth as Ye Xiu.

Troubling Rain didn’t have a shield either, so it would be much harder for him to block attacks.

Break through the Hundred Blossoms style while Silenced, only by dodging and blocking?

Extremely difficult was one way to put it, but that was because there was no such thing as impossible!

If he had been in Ye Xiu’s position, he would most likely have died...

Chapter 1505: Waiting at the Ambush Area

Was Ye Xiu trying to get a feel for the new Tyranny?

After the discussion with Yu Wenzhou, Huang Shaotian began observing Lord Grim more closely.

Tyranny did not react in the slightest towards his provocation, playing extremely patiently. As a result, Ye Xiu had also slowed down.

Retreat. Lord Grim retreated. The pace of his retreat just happened to match the pace of Tyranny’s advance. Not everyone could see this point, or at least, when Pan Lin and Li Yibo talked about this topic, they simply said that Ye Xiu was starting to become more cautious.

Yes, he was being cautious, but for what reason?

To continue getting a feel for Tyranny.

He had been getting a feel for their offense. Now, he was getting a feel for their defense.

“He’s getting a feel for Tyranny’s tempo switch.” This time, Yu Wenzhou messaged Huang Shaotian.

Tempo switch.

Normal players might only have an idea of what it was, but pro players would immediately understand if they heard this phrase.

To put it simply, it was referring to the switch in tempo between attack and defense. It couldn't be too flat or too exaggerated. It had to be just right.

Ye Xiu was constantly adjusting his own tempo to produce a change in Tyranny's tempo. From this, he could grasp new information on Tyranny.

"This isn't to win the match, but to win the set." Yu Wenzhou typed again.

Huang Shaotian understood this point. Tyranny had constantly been rotating their roster throughout the regular season. It was only until the end of the season did the old generals of Tyranny start coming out together. However, everyone knew that those games were just as a warm-up. Their full capabilities would only be revealed in the playoffs. How had Tyranny changed over the course of this season? The only way to find out was to personally experience it, which was why Ye Xiu didn't hesitate to take these risks alone. In terms of tactics, it was very risky. But from a strategic standpoint, it would likely prove to be useful in the future.

But would Tyranny let Ye Xiu see everything so easily?

The two Gunners in Tyranny suddenly rushed out again.

Bang bang bang!

The gunfire criss crossed towards Lord Grim. This time, Ye Xiu was ready. As soon as he saw the two dash out, he swiftly retreated.

The broadcast rotated through the four players on Happy lying in wait.

Happy's ambush area was not far now. Ye Xiu's Lord Grim was retreating towards this area. Would Tyranny walk in to the ambush?

No?

The two Gunners forced Lord Grim to retreat to show that he was not welcome. Tyranny had no intentions of relentlessly pursuing him. As a result, when Lord Grim retreated into the ambush area, Tyranny was still a fair distance away!

Han Wenqing and Lin Jingyan didn't move forward. Only Zhang Jiale and Qin Muyun, the two long-ranged characters, attacked from afar. The team didn't enter into the ambush, instead using their long range to harass Lord Grim.

Even though Lord Grim had long-ranged attacks too, how could he compare to two genuine Gunners? There was no way he could compete with them. He could only continue retreating.

Team Tyranny was unexpectedly using long-ranged classes to open their path forward, while the melee classes stayed at the back to provide support. Even so, this unconventional formation worked perfectly in this situation. Even if the long-ranged characters fell for an ambush, they wouldn't be as deep into it as the melee characters.

Lord Grim had retreated deep into the ambush.

The houses in the residential area were established on verdant and lush trees. Many of the houses on the trees were covered by leaves and were well-hidden. With one glance, it was obvious that this place was perfect for setting up ambushes. After Zhang Xinjie gave a warning in the chat, even Zhang Jiale and Qin Muyun stopped chasing after Lord Grim.

“You’re not going to heal?” Zhang Jiale asked Ye Xiu in the public chat.

“Not rush,” Ye Xiu replied. Don’t look at how he had never directly engaged in a prolonged fight with Tyranny. He had lost a considerable amount of health during his retreat. He only had 47% of his health left, not even half.

He was half-dead, yet Tyranny still didn’t push forward to kill him. Their patience and perseverance were terrifying.

Zhang Xinjie’s Immovable Rock moved to the front. He looked around. Just like this, he stood outside of Happy’s ambush range and calmly observed his surroundings.

“Happy’s overreaching themselves!” Pan Lin said.

Even if this was a team competition map, it wasn’t so large that it couldn’t be explored. If Tyranny continued to slowly take in their surroundings, they would quickly see what areas to look out for. The person making the observations was the Master Tactician, Zhang Xinjie, the Zhang Xinjie who never let out an opening and never missed details.

Immovable Rock suddenly raised his hands, pointing towards a direction.

Dazzling Hundred Blossoms raised his arms and tossed a grenade in that direction.

Boom!

The grenade flew in a beautiful arc, but halfway through, the grenade suddenly exploded. Fire rained down. Dazzling Hundred Blossoms had tossed a Burst Grenade.

“Haha, sorry!” Ye Xiu apologized in the public chat. On the other end of the forest, smoke rose from the tip of Lord Grim’s umbrella. He had shot down the grenade.

Suddenly, Lin Jingyan raised his arm. What appeared to be a wine bottle flew in that direction.

“Are you testing me?” Ye Xiu even had the time to type out a message. Lord Grim lifted his umbrella and with a bang, the wine bottle shattered into pieces. Flames rained down and spread onto the ground.

“Are you trying to set the forest on fire? That’s a bit difficult,” Ye Xiu typed.

The broadcast coordinated with the conversation between the players. As Ye Xiu said these words, the camera zoomed in on the fire on the ground. Sure enough, the fire produced by these skills didn’t last for long before dissipating.

“A better idea would be to learn from Huang Shaotian and cut down these trees instead.” Ye Xiu suggested.

“That motherfucker!” Huang Shaotian was just watching the match, and shots were being fired at him. He quickly expressed his inner resentment in the form of a message for Yu Wenzhou.

Tyranny remained indifferent towards Ye Xiu's words. Not a single person in the team replied back. Zhang Xinjie's Immovable Rock continued to observe his surroundings, while communicating the information he got into Tyranny's team chat.

Ye Xiu didn't know, but the viewers could see it.

Not only did the viewers know what Tyranny was discussing, they even knew where the other four members of Happy were hiding. Tyranny was discussing where the other members of Happy were likely hiding at. Usually, they would analyze it based off their classes to see what locations would be most advantageous for them.

The likely hiding spots of Happy's four characters were being deduced. The viewers checked, all correct! Happy's current hiding spots were within Tyranny's analysis.

From there, they took the analysis a step further and eliminated the less probable hiding spots.

They did this step by looking at the habits and styles of each player. The player's style would also decide what type of position best suited them.

After eliminating half of the possibilities, the viewers checked again, all correct!

Terrifying!

Too terrifying!

The stadium was completely silent. Let alone fighting, there was almost no movement whatsoever. Four little squares were sectioned off on the screen, showing each of Happy's four characters. Whenever Tyranny mentioned the location of these Happy members, the camera would immediately zoom in on the square. The broadcast seemed to be coordinating with Tyranny's team chat, drawing a diagram for the viewers to see.

However, by doing this, the viewers felt an even stronger sense of chilliness. Tyranny's strong logic had unraveled Happy's ambush.

After filtering out the hiding spots by player style and class, they filtered it even further by their offensive and defensive coordination, formation, etc.

In the end, they concluded six possibilities for the four hiding spots. They couldn't be certain about the two extra, but this was already incredible because Happy's true hiding spots were all within these six possibilities. As Tyranny narrowed down the search, the audience members in the away team seats were clapping wildly. Every time the analysis was spot on, the applause would reach a new high. As for Happy's fans? They were dead silent.

Happy's opponents stood right in front of them, unraveling Happy's plans bit by bit, yet not a single sign of movement could be seen coming from Happy.

Was this a contest of patience?

But the other side isn't competing with you in terms of patience! You guys are waiting patiently, but the other side has already completely seen through everything!

If the ambush was seen through, then it was no longer an ambush. Tyranny quickly formulated an attack plan based off of their deductions.

Bang bang bang!

The sounds of gunfire.

The two Gunners led the attack. They ignored Lord Grim, who was directly facing them. Instead, they aimed at trees that appeared to have noone there.

Dancing Rain!

Tyranny just happened to attack where Dancing Rain was. They didn't attack the important healer, nor the average-skilled rookie Luo Ji, who was coming out onto the playoffs stage for the first time.

Tyranny's first target was the experienced Su Mucheng, the Launcher who held the range advantage.

It seemed to be a stupid choice, but the viewers understood the reason clearly.

Because they had seen the analysis by Tyranny.

There was only one reason for picking Dancing Rain as their first target: Dancing Rain's position was the position that they were most certain of!

Reliable and never making mistakes, the style of Zhang Xinjie!

Chapter 1506: The Possibility of Mistake

The dusky forest brightened, illuminating a path from Tyranny's formation.

Zhang Jiale!

Dazzling Hundred Blossoms!

Hundred Blossoms Style! Offense and defense together. By the time the viewers regained their composure, Desert Dust and Dark Thunder had vanished. Only their shadows could be seen flickering in the light.

The two had charged forward alongside Dazzling Hundred Blossom's attacks.

Tyranny's fans instantly became excited.

"Holy Trinity!" The Tyranny fans cheered.

Holy Trinity.

Han Wenqing, Zhang Jiale, and Lin Jingyan. These three old generals of Tyranny had been fighting each other all the way from season two to season nine. At the end of their careers, the three unexpectedly became teammates, gathering together under Tyranny. They were even able to create their own unique offensive formation, which Tyranny nicknamed the Holy Trinity. The name showed just how much synergy there was between them.

The people who understood you the best were your own enemies.

These words suited these three perfectly. From enemies to teammates, being able to create their own set of tactics so quickly was because of their many years of experience as opponents.

At this moment, Tyranny officially began their offensive. The Holy Trinity that had the Tyranny fans go wild last season had reappeared. As for this season, because of their frequent rotations, the three old generals rarely appeared together on stage. The Tyranny fans had been waiting to see this scene for too long.

现在他们终于等到了,三位一体的攻势,看不出有任何生疏.

Their hopes had finally been realized. The Holy Trinity didn't seem to be out of practice at all.

Just as the fans were getting excited, another shadow flickered into their view.

Negative Nine Degrees, Qin Muyun. Tyranny's fifth player, the fifth player who was overshadowed by the Gods around him, had intruded into this picturesque scene. He didn't match the pace of the other three. His pace seemed completely out of place in comparison.

However, the true experts immediately could immediately feel the improvement in Team Tyranny as a whole.

The Holy Trinity, it still comprised of the same three players. However, there was now a new helper alongside them.

Qin Muyun was outstanding at positioning. He kept weaving in and out between the Holy Trinity, his gaze and gun aimed at spots that could potentially mean trouble for the formation.

It was just that no trouble had occurred yet, so Negative Nine Degrees looked somewhat comical as if he were delusional. But this was Zhang Xinjie's style: it was better to be safe than sorry. His every move blocked any potential areas that could disrupt their plans.

Shortly afterwards, the Holy Trinity had reached their destination. Cannonfire could already be heard in the forest. Tyranny's guess had been correct. Su Mucheng obviously wasn't going to sit there and wait for her death to come. Dancing Rain fired a few shots at the light cover, borrowing the recoil to move.

Aerial Cannon. It was difficult to change directions while using Aerial Cannon, so it wasn't too suitable for this map. However, with this being Happy's home map, Su Mucheng was evidently very familiar with this area of the map. As Dancing Rain used Aerial cannon, she accurately calculated the glide distance and direction every time, intentionally bumping into trees to change directions.

After a few shots, Dancing Rain pulled away from Tyranny's formation.

Bang bang bang bang!

Gunshots suddenly rang in the air.

Qin Muyun's Negative Nine Degrees suddenly fired towards a direction.

Enemy attack?

No!

The slower viewers weren't sure what was happening. On the other hand, the more attentive viewers quickly realized that Qin Muyun's Negative Nine Degrees was firing at one of the six potential hiding spots that Tyranny had conjectured.

There's no one there!

The viewers could see where Happy's members were located and knew the answer. Even so, by checking with his attacks, he helped Tyranny eliminate this possibility.

As a result, apart from the already exposed Dancing Rain, there were only four guesses and three characters left.

Tyranny was in no hurry though.

Tyranny had already reached this far in, was Happy still going to do nothing? If they made some adjustments, they might make Tyranny to predict wrongly. Thus, Tyranny didn't make any rash movements and focused on Dancing Rain.

Dazzling Hundred Blossoms' offensive kept her under control. The bright lights kept interfering with Dancing Rain's sight, making it difficult for her to see Tyranny's pathing. Han Wenqing and Lin Jingyan quickly closed in under this light cover.

"Be careful of Ye Xiu!" Zhang Xinjie reminded everyone.

Ye Xiu moved!

He saw that Su Mucheng's situation wasn't looking too good. Lord Grim went over to provide support.

Bang bang bang bang!

Another round of gunfire.

It was Qin Muyun's job to stop Ye Xiu from helping her out. He didn't need Zhang Xinjie's warning. He had taken note of Ye Xiu. As soon as he saw Lord Grim move, he didn't hesitate to attack.

Lord Grim fled behind a tree. Under such heavy gunfire, he couldn't easily expose himself. He could use his shield to tank the hits, but Lord Grim didn't have that much health right now. His shield only reduced the damage too. It didn't negate it.

"Beautiful!" Zhang Jiale praised in the chat as Dazzling Hundred Blossoms attacked even more fiercely.

Zhang Xinjie wasn't moved by the current situation. He continued to be cautious, paying close attention to those calm areas.

It was too calm.

The battle had already developed to this stage, yet Happy still wasn't going to act? Were they really going to test Ye Xiu and Su Mucheng and hope for the two to escape on their own?

If Ye Xiu and Su Mucheng failed to escape and died here, the match would be over!

Could I have missed something?

Zhang Xinjie never made mistakes?

That was what people thought of Zhang Xinjie, but Zhang Xinjie himself never felt like he never made mistakes. He simply did his best to think of all aspects before making a decision... others might not see any mistakes, but that was because he was constantly thinking of what could go wrong.

He never let down his guard at any moment.

He always thought of what could go wrong at any moment.

The calmness from Happy gave him that sort of feeling.

Zhang Xinjie wasn't someone who made decisions based purely off of intuition. This feeling was based on logic: if Happy didn't make any changes, they would certainly lose, so it didn't make sense that Happy would make no changes.

Where?

Zhang Xinjie made sure to keep up with the team's tempo, while continuing to observe his surroundings.

Over there!

Just when Zhang Xinjie turned to look over there, he immediately turned back and had Immovable Rock perform a roll.

There was no sound, no light, but did that mean nothing had happened?

The moment Immovable Rock left that spot, the branches and leaves on the ground were suddenly swept up by the wind.

Cloud Grasping Fist!

The Qi Master's Cloud Grasping Fist!

Happy's Fang Rui, the master of playing dirty, had begun his own individual operation as soon as Tyranny entered their ambush area. He was very patient. Even when Tyranny had nearly cornered Su Mucheng, even when Ye Xiu had been prevented from helping her, he hadn't made his move.

Because what he wanted wasn't just to give Tyranny a bit of an inconvenience. He wanted to completely disrupt the entire Tyranny with a single move.

He had fixed his sights on Zhang Xinjie, on the important healer.

He had been waiting, waiting for an opportunity to act. From the very beginning, he had planned on stealthily grabbing Zhang Xinjie's Immovable Rock with a Cloud Grasping Fist.

That was why he ignored Su Mucheng's and Ye Xiu's predicament.

Only those sorts of predicaments could catch Tyranny's attention and lower their guard towards their healer.

These types of ambushes were Fang Rui's specialty. His judgement was correct. When Qin Muyun began targeting Ye Xiu to stop him from helping Su Mucheng, Tyranny's attention was almost entirely fixed on the fight over there.

As a result, Fang Rui made his move. Following Immovable Rock, Boundless Sea found a perfect position. Then, he casted, prayed for good luck, and acted...

However, in the final moments, Fang Rui hadn't expected Zhang Xinjie to sense it.

The Cloud Grasping Fist missed, exposing his position. Even though he was facing a Cleric, who posed no offensive threat, Fang Rui felt like he had been stripped naked. It was as if nothing could escape from Zhang Xinjie's notice.

Fine, if an ambush isn't going to work, then I'll just go to you!

Boundless Sea unexpectedly rushed forward. The Cloud Grasping Fist had missed, so his new plan was to kidnap Immovable Rock directly.

Zhang Xinjie immediately had Immovable Rock retreat. Tyranny's other players obviously received the signal. In an instant, the Hundred Blossom style enveloped Immovable Rock. Then, the light and Immovable Rock vanished.

"What! Is this a magic trick? Are you sure you aren't a Magician?" Fang Rui spat out. He immediately changed his plans. He couldn't catch Immovable Rock, so he began attacking Qin Muyun's Negative Nine Degrees. The guy had firepower though. Fang Rui couldn't fight him out in the open, so he relied on his familiarity with the terrain to begin playing dirty.

Qi Bullet!

Boundless Sea suddenly reached out with his hands and fired a Qi Bullet from behind a tree.

Qin Muyun didn't dodge and let the Qi Bullet hit Negative Nine Degrees.

He was ready to guard against a follow-up from behind that tree, when a storm of qi came from the other direction.

Sky Piercing Cannon!

The wave of qi sent branches and leaves flying. It was obvious where it was coming from. The attack seemed to be saying to him: you little punk, let's see you tank this one...

Chapter 1507: Neither Side Willing to Take a Step

Sky Piercing Cannon!

You could ignore the damage dealt by the skill, but you could not ignore its knockback. If you tanked the skill without Super Armor, you would certainly be sent flying.

Qin Muyun had Negative Nine Degrees dodge and counterattack simultaneously. But when he glanced behind him, his heart tightened.

He had dodged Sky-Piercing Cannon, but the surging qi was now heading towards one of his allies.

Dazzling Hundred Blossoms!

Zhang Jiale's Dazzling Hundred Blossoms.

Sure enough, Fang Rui's harassment was shameless and dirty. If the attack onto Negative Nine Degrees missed, there was a fallback. It was very clear why he picked those two targets too.

If he hit Negative Nine Degrees, he would reduce the pressure on Ye Xiu.

Hitting Dazzling Hundred Blossoms would be even better. The Hundred Blossoms style was a hindrance towards both Ye Xiu and Su Mucheng.

"!" Qin Muyun didn't know whether Zhang Jiale noticed it or not and quickly warned him. He didn't have time to type any words.

Zhang Jiale hadn't noticed it, but Qin Muyun's warning was prompt enough. Not just Zhang Jiale, but Han Wenqing and Lin Jingyan dodged as soon as they saw the warning.

Dazzling Hundred Blossoms flopped like a fish and rolled, dodging the Sky-Piercing Cannon.

Qin Muyun let out a sigh of relief. However, Fang Rui's Boundless Sea had disappeared. He didn't know where he would come out from next time. Qin Muyun started feeling nervous. This was his responsibility, but Fang Rui's dirtiness was difficult for him to deal with.

It took a long time for talents to grow. Compared to other rookies, he was more mature and rational. From the day he became part of Tyranny's main roster, he knew that he would not be the lead role on stage. At that time, Team Tyranny had shined the brightest in all of Glory. Legendary names that would go down in Glory history had gathered together in this team.

Qin Muyun became the fifth player alongside them.

Other rookies might feel pressured under these circumstances, but Qin Muyun did not. He figured out his own role in the team. In this group filled with stars, he didn't need to shine any brighter. Perhaps being put out of the spotlight would allow him to bring out more of his potential.

As a result, Qin Muyun began his career as an invisible existence. For the rookies of this day and age, perhaps none of them would be happy about such a situation. They wanted to hurry and show everyone their talent, so that everyone would recognize their worth.

Qin Muyun was different.

Just like this, he finished an entire season in the dark. His numbers weren't spectacular, and he never made any highlight plays in the regular season. However, he was still a part of the main roster. No matter how invisible he may seem, Qin Muyun was confident in his own contributions to the team. His own value would not be neglected. Team Tyranny had Zhang Xinjie, who would never overlook anything. With this vice-captain, Qin Muyun could safely compete with his own style. He didn't need to worry about whether the team would forget about him.

Qin Muyun succeeded.

Even if he hadn't received any attention for a long time, as part of the main roster for a season, just that fact alone was enough for people to no longer ignore him.

Qin Muyun continued to hide under the radiance of the Gods around him, but his existence was no longer ignored.

As a result, his playstyle was no longer as suitable this season because their opponents were taking note of him. A player with a steady position in Tyranny's main roster could not be neglected.

The space that he had due to being ignored was gone. Qin Muyun had no choice but to adapt to the new circumstances.

He could no longer hide. He needed to use his own abilities to make the Gods shine even brighter.

His role was to patch up the gaps in the Holy Trinity.

But facing Fang Rui, Qin Muyun was worried whether he would be able to complete this task. This master of playing dirty was too crafty. Although Lin Jingyan, whose used to be old partners with Fang Rui, had told him much of Fang Rui's methods and habits, his class change made it difficult to rely on just these to keep up with Fang Rui. Tyranny's heroes were incompatible with his dirtiness. They couldn't keep up with Fang Rui's thoughts.

Where is he?

Negative Nine Degrees kept looking. He had outstanding positioning and was good at finding potential trouble spots, but after his misplaced judgement of Fang Rui's previous move, his confidence was starting to falter.

"Don't panic!" Zhang Xinjie's message popped out in the chat. He could tell that Qin Muyun was nervous. Tyranny mainly consisted of experienced veterans. However, their one inexperienced player's spirit had been disrupted by Fang Rui's sneak attack.

"I'm coming." Another person typed.

Lin Jingyan's Dark Thunder ran towards that area. The Holy Trinity formation had been temporarily disbanded. Han Wenqing and Zhang Jiale were enough to pressure Su Mucheng. When he saw that Qin Muyun was having trouble dealing with Ye Xiu and Fang Rui, he chose to stop what he was doing and help him. Fang Rui was undoubtedly a target that he was familiar with. Dark Thunder turned towards a certain direction.

Sure enough, Boundless Sea was in that direction. Fang Rui was helpless. His old partner knew him too well. Boundless Sea suppressed the rising qi that he had gathered and examined the situation again.

Fang Rui was observing the situation. It was the same for Zhang Xinjie.

Three of Happy's players were visible. Su Mucheng had been isolated. Ye Xiu was trying to re-establish contact with her, while Fang Rui was trying to disrupt Tyranny's tempo.

There was no tactical coordination between any of them. Su Mucheng, Ye Xiu, and Fang Rui were doing their own thing. This clearly wasn't the purpose for setting up an ambush.

Had the ambush already been resolved?

In that case, what about Luo Ji? An Wenyi?

Zhang Xinjie didn't neglect the potential hiding spots that they had ascertained, but there were no movements from there. The battle on this end had fully developed. There was no extra manpower to check those spots.

Should we continue with our offensive?

Zhang Xinjie's Immovable Rock had shifted towards this end. No large changes had occurred yet. However, Ye Xiu's and Su Mucheng's abilities weren't just this. With Lin Jingyan shifting his attention to Fang Rui, the pressure onto them should have been greatly reduced. The deadlock should have been broken.

It was true that Lin Jingyan was an effective answer for Fang Rui, but at the same time, Zhang Xinjie took another look at Happy.

Happy still had two players who had not yet showed their faces, so the hidden dangers had not been completely eliminated. Fang Rui's harassment gave Happy some space. He wanted to use this time to observe Happy's movements and hopefully reveal all of Happy's cards.

With support from Dazzling Hundred Blossoms, Han Wenqing's Desert Dust was getting closer and closer to Dancing Rain. Even though he hadn't launched any attacks yet, his push forward was far more threatening to Su Mucheng than Zhang Jiale's attacks.

If Han Wenqing's Desert Dust was able to get close to her, the only outcome for her Launcher was death.

Retreat, keep retreating.

Su Mucheng didn't seem to have found a way to escape. She could only keep on retreating and maintaining a distance between them.

As she retreated, Han Wenqing and Zhang Jiale advanced. Zhang Xinjie's Immovable Rock also had to follow his team.

The entirety of Tyranny was being pulled deeper into the residential area. The players could already see numerous treehouses on top of the trees.

They weren't just following Dancing Rain blindly. The team maintained their formation. As Dancing Rain retreated deeper into the area, they had tried to surround Ye Xiu's Lord Grim. But in the end, Ye Xiu was able to see through their intentions. Tyranny's formation was still intact though. Ye Xiu's Lord Grim failed to reach Dancing Rain, but his presence made it such that Tyranny could not let out any openings. Lin Jingyan and Fang Rui were following along with the paces of their respective teams, keeping their opponent in check and moving.

The atmosphere in the stadium was very strange.

The two sides could take a step and change the situation, but neither of them did so.

In the end, Tyranny didn't open up their offensive, while Happy didn't do everything they could to save Su Mucheng. Both sides seemed to be using 70% of their strength. The remaining 30% made the viewers feel extremely anxious.

"The match is still in the observation stage!" Yu Wenzhou messaged Huang Shaotian.

Previously, he had felt that Ye Xiu wanted to get a feel for Tyranny for the sake of the set win. But now, from the looks of it, Tyranny's Zhang Xinjie also wanted to get a solid grasp on Happy before making his move.

What is Happy planning?

Yu Wenzhou was also puzzled. Unfortunately, even having an omniscient view of the battle didn't help. The commentators could not see the problem either.

Who would be the first to break the balance?

This was the crucial question. Both sides wanted to react to their opponent's actions. It depended on who would be more patient.

However, from the current situation, even if Happy wanted to be patient, the situation might not let them.

This was the terrifying part about Zhang Xinjie. His tactics were never dirty. He used oppressive strength to pressure the opponent to force the opponents into doing what he wanted. This tactical style had grown relying on Tyranny's powerful offensive capabilities.

"Is Happy not able to think of a solution?" Pan Lin cried out. For the people who weren't able to see deep enough, Happy was at a disadvantage. Tyranny was forcing them back step by step. If Happy could not find a way to break through the situation, they would be forced into action.

Come! Show me your cards!

Happy's plan couldn't just be an ambush, right? Why bring a Summoner in this map?

Zhang Xinjie was looking forward to what awaited him.

Chapter 1508: Instant After Instant

It was Luo Ji's first time on the playoffs stage. He was a rookie that couldn't be more of a rookie. If he knew that Zhang Xinjie was worried about him, his self-confidence would skyrocket.

But no matter how much Zhang Xinjie was looking forward to what was to come from him, Luo Ji wasn't going to give him face. His Summoner, Concealed Light, had yet to appear on the battlefield.

The viewers didn't know that Zhang Xinjie was thinking about Luo Ji. If not, the broadcast would have certainly given Concealed Light a few close-ups to see what he was so busy with that he couldn't give this vice-captain any face.

Luo Ji's Concealed Light didn't make any movements, but Ye Xiu's Lord Grim did.

Boom!

A grenade exploded. Lord Grim tore through the explosion and rushed towards Dancing Rain.

In the end, Su Mucheng isn't able to hold on and needs to be rescued?

Zhang Xinjie's attention quickly shifted towards that direction. As a Cleric, his job wasn't just to keep up his team's health. Clerics had many useful offensive support skills such as Sacred Fire, Hypnosis, Holy Commandment. This was the difference between Clerics and Paladins. Clerics served a more offensive role, while Paladins served a more defensive role.

When Ye Xiu's Lord Grim rushed forward, the first person to intercept him on Tyanny's side was Zhang Xinjie's Immovable Rock.

Immovable Rock lifted his Silver weapon, Backlight Cross, to his forehead and began casting a spell.

Sacred Fire!

Sacred Fire was a widely used Cleric skill. No one cared about the damage dealt by the skill. What mattered was the three seconds of Silence.

Three seconds!

Ye Xiu would likely reach Su Mucheng within these three seconds, but if he couldn't use any skills, how was he supposed to rescue her?

Happy's fans began to feel worried for Ye Xiu, seeing what Immovable Rock was about to do. Immovable Rock's cast speed was extremely fast. The Sacred Fire was practically cast in an instant. White light radiated from the Backlight Cross. Then, the light seemed to leap across the void and disappeared. On the other side of the forest, a Sacred Fire suddenly burst forth in front of Lord Grim.

It missed!

Right when Lord Grim was about to take a step, he suddenly stopped, the Sacred Fire floating in front of him. Then, he gently circled around it and even took a glance at Immovable Rock.

Was I discovered?

Zhang Xinjie felt that it was a pity, but he wasn't frustrated by it. Ambushes weren't his specialty. What's more, he was trying to ambush someone as experienced as Ye Xiu. Zhang Xinjie never placed all of his hopes on a single skill. The Sacred Fire missed? It was too bad, but it at least disrupted Lord Grim's tempo.

Dazzling Hundred Blossoms seized this opportunity to attack Lord Grim. As for Han Wenqing's Desert Dust, he stepped to the side, stopping Su Mucheng's attempt to move her Dancing Rain towards Lord Grim. A Launcher charging past a Striker was not a good idea.

The blossoming light swallowed Lord Grim. Suddenly, the forest seemed to quiet down.

What was missing?

Negative Nine Degrees' gunshots!

Qin Muyun's Negative Nine Degrees had been chasing after Lord Grim, but the blossoming light blocked his view. For a moment, he couldn't lock onto his target.

Not good!

The sudden pause made Zhang Xinjie realize that the situation wasn't good. It had interrupted Tyranny's tempo. Ye Xiu had most likely intentionally let his Lord Grim get swallowed by the blossoming light. He had unexpectedly used his opponent's offensive as a cover. It was unadorned disdain towards Zhang Jiale.

Zhang Xinjie realized it as did Zhang Jiale. The blossoming light that he had sent over wasn't a net, but a wall. If Ye Xiu continued to charge towards Dancing Rain, he would certainly suffer heavy damage. With Han Wenqing's Desert Dust there, as well as a pincer from Zhang Jiale and Qin Muyun, they could eliminate him in one go.

That was the best outcome, but Zhang Jiale didn't think Ye Xiu was so stupid. But it turned out that Lord Grim really did walk right into it. In that instant, Zhang Jiale had been excited, but he soon realized that though Ye Xiu's intrusion had been shallow. Lord Grim had walked into his Hundred Blossom style, but he didn't continue moving through the wall.

He's using me as cover!

Zhang Jiale and Zhang Xinjie reacted almost simultaneously. Zhang Jiale had Dazzling Hundred Blossoms hastily retract the light cover.

Not good! Not good at all!

Zhang Jiale had realized the problem, but his realization had been somewhat shallow. When he retracted the light cover, Zhang Xinjie immediately noticed an even deeper problem.

By borrowing the light as a cover, Ye Xiu had interrupted Qin Muyun's offensive and Tyranny's tempo. Then, when Zhang Jiale noticed the problem, he adjusted his Hundred Blossoms style. Didn't that mean he had interrupted Tyranny's tempo twice?

The interruptions had come one after the other. Although it was just for an instant, Qin Muyun and Zhang Jiale had stopped their attacks.

Ye Xiu had been looking for this instant!

Boom boom boom!

The sounds of cannonfire.

Sure enough, Su Mucheng's Dancing Rain immediately seized this opening. She paved the way forward with her cannonfire. At the same time, Ye Xiu's Lord Grim charged fiercely at Han Wenqing's Desert Dust.

Having won the title of Best Partners for three consecutive years, the coordination between the two didn't need to be explained. There was only one final obstacle in their path, Han Wenqing. Team Tyranny's captain, Han Wenqing.

Reinforced Iron Bones!

No one knew if Han Wenqing had a complete grasp of the situation like Zhang Xinjie did, but when he saw Su Mucheng and Ye Xiu form a pincer onto him, he immediately had Desert Dust activate Reinforced Iron Bones.

Then, he completely ignored Lord Grim.

Ferocious Tiger Flurry!

Desert Dust attacked Dancing Rain, ignoring Lord Grim's attacks from behind. With Reinforced Iron Bones activated, these attacks would not hinder his movements. Right now, he only had one target in his sights, Dancing Rain, who was heading straight towards him!

Boom boom boom!

Dancing Rain's artillery shells exploded onto Desert Dust, but it didn't even phase him. At this moment, everyone experienced the ferocity of a tiger that had rampaged through the battlefield for ten years.

The wind from his fists whistled by. Su Mucheng clearly hadn't expected Han Wenqing to do this. It was too late for Dancing Rain to retreat. She could only do her best and face the Ferocious Tiger Flurry head-on.

Dodge? Not possible. She could only try to minimize the damage that she took.

A white light radiated from Desert Dust, who could ignore most attacks with Reinforced Iron Bones. The reason that he could bravely charge forward even if he didn't have a grasp of the situation was because he trusted the person behind him. With him, not a drop of water would leak out. Anything he overlooked would be patched up.

Opportunity was only for an instant.

Ye Xiu had cleverly interrupted Qin Muyun's and Zhang Jiale's offensive, but in the end, he had been stopped by Han Wenqing.

Opportunity was fleeting. Negative Nine Degrees and Dazzling Hundred Blossoms started their offensive again. The two characters had rushed over to surround them.

Not only had Ye Xiu failed to rescue Su Mucheng, it looked like he was going to be trapped here too.

Good, it was just a false alarm...

Even Zhang Xinjie couldn't help but let out a sigh of relief. But then, in that instant, a white light suddenly flashed from the depths of the forest.

White light!

A white light that Zhang Xinjie couldn't be more familiar with!

Chi!

It was a gentle noise, but in that instant, Desert Dust became enshrouded in white flames.

Reinforced Iron Bones, so what? Ferocious Tiger Flurry, so what?

Sacred Fire!

The Cleric's Sacred Fire. The skill that Han Wenqing's most reliable partner was proficient at was now burning Han Wenqing's Desert Dust.

Ferocious Tiger Flurry was interrupted, and the Reinforced Iron Bones was dispelled.

Lord Grim stepped forward, Falling Flower Palm!

Boom! Desert Dust was sent flying. Lord Grim and Dancing Rain had finally convened. Negative Nine Degrees and Dazzling Hundred Blossoms were still firing at them, but the problem with long-ranged classes were that their control over the battle wasn't enough. Trying to keep Ye Xiu and Su Mucheng there with just the two of them was too difficult, let alone when one of them had a giant shield...

Happy's An Wenyi, a rookie Cleric and a fan of Zhang Xinjie, used what Zhang Xinjie was most proficient at to help rescue Happy from a crisis.

A pity!

Zhang Xinjie could only say that it was a pity.

He rarely made mistakes because he faced his mistakes. He wouldn't get frustrated by his mistakes. It only made him work harder. Fights were always back and forth. Zhang Xinjie knew that it was not possible to have a 100% grasp in any situation.

Ye Xiu successfully convened with Su Mucheng, but the match was far from over! Who knew how many more back and forths there would be! The two had convened, but they hadn't escaped, no?

The gunfire from the two Gunners continued to weave in and out. Desert Dust, who had been sent flying by a Falling Flower Palm, was on his way back. Lin Jingyan's Dark Thunder was actively drawing closer to the team, while being on the lookout for Fang Rui.

Ye Xiu and Su Mucheng had broken through the small net, but a bigger net was coming their way.

An Wenyi's Little Cold Hands' position was now known. Another sneaky move like that Sacred Fire wouldn't be so easy.

Chapter 1509: Falling Short

It had only been a short moment, yet all sorts of changes had taken place. The lesser skilled players might not even have been able to recognize what twists and turns had happened.

With help from the Sacred Fire from An Wenyi's Little Cold Hands, Ye Xiu's Lord Grim and Su Mucheng's Dancing Rain were finally able to convene. It wasn't over yet though. The two had established contact with each other, but it was far too early to say that they had escaped from Tyranny!

By this time, Desert Dust had recovered from the Sacred Fire. Again, he took the shortest path and ran towards the two at his fastest speed. In the meantime, the two Tyranny gunners weren't stingy with

their ammunition. Lin Jingyan's Dark Thunder was also moving towards the front to stop the two from leaving.

The situation looked to be advantageous for Tyranny, but this time, Zhang Xinjie didn't dare let out a sigh of relief. Little Cold Hand's save with the Sacred Fire had happened once, and it could happen again.

However, this time, Little Cold Hand was being watched with great attention, making it hard for him to even find an opening to cast a heal. Under Zhang Xinjie's instructions, the two Gunners were keeping an eye on him.

Happy had others though.

Fang Rui? Even if Lin Jingyan, who understood him inside and out, was on the lookout for him, it wasn't enough to make them feel at ease. There was also Luo Ji's Summoner, Concealed Light, who had yet to appear.

What is Concealed Light doing?

Finally, it wasn't just Zhang Xinjie who was wondering, Pan Lin and Li Yibo had started to talk about this question as well. The broadcast also found an opportunity to switch to Luo Ji's perspective.

Concealed Light was moving.

That was all the information they could get from this angle. For a moment, it was impossible to tell what he was planning. The broadcast could not put the focus on him entirely. After all, there was an intense battle taking place on the other side. Moreover, Luo Ji was a rookie at his first playoffs game. In reality, more people were worried rather than expectant of him.

In the end, the broadcast left a small window for Concealed Light, but not long afterwards, the scene in the small window changed.

Boundless Sea!

Fang Rui's Boundless Sea was put into the small window instead. The broadcast figured that Fang Rui's actions were more likely to become a turning point for Happy.

Boundless Sea lowered his body, hiding amongst the underbrush as he moved. He moved slowly but resolutely. His line of sight was fixed ahead of him. He evidently had a clear plan in mind.

The camera focused on where Boundless Sea was looking at: Lord Grim and Dancing Rain.

Tyranny's two Gunners were controlling these two's movements brilliantly. Zhang Jiale's Hundred Blossoms style interfered with their vision, while Qin Muyun relied on his outstanding positioning skills to predict and seal off their most optimal retreat paths. The two attacked at a wide angle and moved accordingly. As a result, even though Lord Grim had a shield, he was unable to defend against simultaneous attacks from two sides.

"Healer, be careful!" Ye Xiu's own situation was worrying, but he couldn't help but warn An Wenyi.

Zhang Jiale's Dazzling Hundred Blossoms formed a wide angle with Qin Muyun's Negative Nine Degrees, while pushing closer to Little Cold Hands. He was no longer simply keeping watch onto him, but preparing to attack him.

Although An Wenyi lacked experienced, he never lost his cool or his ability to reason. He had been taking note of Zhang Jiale's movements even before Ye Xiu gave a warning. But at this moment, even though Ye Xiu had pointed it out, he still didn't move.

"What is he doing!!!" Many Happy's fans were becoming dissatisfied. Even though An Wenyi had just performed a miraculous save, as a player who had always been deemed as Happy's weak point, there were still many players who took particular note of him, worried that he would make a careless mistake on the stage. Ye Xiu had just warned him despite being in such a predicament, yet he still wasn't going to move?

"What is An Wenyi doing? Is he so focused that he can't see the tam chat? That shouldn't be right? Could he be too nervous? Uh..." The more Pan Lin talked, the more he felt that he was wrong. Nervous? Did Happy's rookies ever feel nervous?

Tang Rou, Bao Rongxing, Mo Fan, An Wenyi...

All of them were first-year rookies. There were times where their unfamiliarity with professional play hindered them, but nervousness?

Sometimes, it seemed like Happy's rookies were tougher than even many experienced pro players.

An Wenyi wasn't nervous, so why did he ignore Ye Xiu's warning?

"Does he have other thoughts?" Li Yibo spoke up. Happy's rookies couldn't be viewed from common knowledge. Rookies from other teams wouldn't hesitate to follow what their captain or senior instructed, but it was different for the players on Happy, who didn't seem to know what nervous meant. Having their own thoughts and ideas during a match shouldn't be anything strange, no?

More importantly, Ye Xiu's message wasn't an order, but a warning. How An Wenyi would respond depended on himself.

The camera switched over to An Wenyi's Little Cold Hands. Zhang Jiale's Dazzling Hundred Blossoms was speeding up. The others on Tyranny had noticed this new target and started towards that direction as well. All of them were experienced seniors who had gone through hundreds of battles. This sort of tacit understanding between them was easy. They didn't need anyone to remind them. After retaining this possibility, they just needed to confirm which target would be more advantageous for them.

Good!

Zhang Jiale felt that things were looking good His Dazzling Hundred Blossoms had entered his predicted range and started moving more carefully. It would be best to look as natural as possible to prevent his opponent from noticing him. Little Cold Hands didn't make any troublesome movements, which made him feel gratified. Keeping a rookie in the dark about his motives wasn't anything special. What was more rare was that Ye Xiu didn't seem to have noticed either.

What a great opportunity! What should I do next? This situation probably could not be maintained for long. Ye Xiu would certainly notice it sooner or later.

Zhang Jiale had started to ponder as he moved. Finally, he took a crucial step towards Little Cold Hands.

But then, Little Cold Hands moved.

Right when Zhang Jiale thought he had succeeded, Little Cold Hands took a step, instantly making it so that Zhang Jiale's plans fell one step short.

It was just one step. Most people probably hadn't noticed it, and of the people who had, how many of them understood the implications of this single step?

"An Wenyi finally moved!" Pan Lin shouted. He hadn't realized that the single step taken by Little Cold Hands was a step away from great danger.

This time, Li Yibo wasn't caught unprepared because he had been paying close attention to Dazzling Hundred Blossoms and Tyranny as a whole. Just before Pan Lin cried out those words, he was about to say how Little Cold Hands was about to meet much misfortune. But with that single step, those words were caught in Li Yibo's throat. What came afterwards was astonishment.

Was it a coincidence?

Or was it intentional?

If it was intentional, An Wenyi's observational abilities were incredible. And he dared to do it at the final moment. Such confidence and gall was praiseworthy.

Sure enough, Happy's rookies are all monsters! Even if An Wenyi's technical skills were poor, he was outstanding in terms of his mental game.

Due to his shock, Li Yibo kept this in his heart. He forgot that he should also make some comments. As a result, the viewers outside didn't know the significance of that one step. On stage, Zhang Jiale felt it the most.

Coincidence or intentional?

For a moment, Zhang Jiale had the same thoughts as Li Yibo. Next, he needed to test out this question. His Dazzling Hundred Blossoms took another step.

Little Cold Hands retreated another two steps.

It's intentional! He wants to divert our attention!

The difference in one step was the difference between rational and irrational. If they focused their offensive onto Little Cold Hands, whether it was just himself or the entire team, the outcome would be much worse. It would be better to continue attacking Lord Grim and Dancing Rain.

But even if they continued attacking Lord Grim and Dancing Rain because of their slight adjustments to come here, they had sacrificed a bit of their offense as well.

Not good!

The new step that Dazzling Hundred Blossoms had taken to test Little Cold Hands hadn't been a wise choice. He had been too eager to know the answer.

It was just a single step, yet because of it, a small opening had appeared in Tyranny's encirclement on Ye Xiu and Su Mucheng.

Ye Xiu, were you waiting for this opportunity?

Sure enough, Zhang Jiale didn't see incorrectly. Ye Xiu grasped this opening.

Boom boom boom!

Dancing Rain's cannonfire came from under the cover of Lord Grim's umbrella. In an instant, the two seized that tiny opening and rushed out. The only who could block them was Lin Jingyan's Dark Thunder. But at this moment, the small screen on the broadcast focusing on Boundless Sea, showed movement. Boundless Sea locked onto Dark Thunder and rushed at him.

Lin Jingyan understood Fang Rui, how could Fang Rui not understand Lin Jingyan? Between them, the only way to deal with the other was to seize a strategic moment. And this time, Fang Rui had succeeded. In the end, he helped Ye Xiu and Su Mucheng escape, thoroughly destroying Tyranny's encirclement.

The viewers were stunned. Even now, they didn't know that the single step that An Wenyi had made at the final moment was the reason for all of these changes.

Falling short. Zhang Jiale felt extremely nauseous. He had felt this sort of defeat who knew how many times...

Chapter 1510: Stubborn People Who Refuse to Change

"Small trick"

Two words popped up in Tyranny's chat. Before Zhang Xinjie gave any orders, Han Wenqing's Desert Dust rushed out. His target was Little Cold Hands, not Lord Grim or Dancing Rain, who had just escaped.

In the end, Han Wenqing and Zhang Xinjie had been partners for many years. With this sudden change in circumstances, he reacted the fastest, grasping Zhang Xinjie's thoughts before the words came out.

The formation shifted towards Little Cold Hands, who had been their back-up choice in case of an accident. Now that an accident had happened, Little Cold Hands was absolutely the better target compared to Lord Grim and Dancing Rain. Those two had broken through their encirclement and convened together with Fang Rui. If An Wenyi supported from the side as well, Happy could contend with Tyranny directly. On the other hand, An Wenyi's Little Cold Hands was separated from the other three.

Desert Dust took a big stride forward. It looked as if he were planning on attacking Little Cold Hands, but at the same time, he cut off contact between An Wenyi and the others on Happy.

Reliable!

He followed Zhang Xinjie's reliable strategies. If this had been the old Tyranny, he would have chased after Lord Grim and Dancing Rain, fighting until his last breath; Han Wenqing's Desert Dust would have certainly been at the forefront of the pursuit.

The others on Tyranny saw Zhang Xinjie's orders and immediately reacted. They were slightly slower than Han Wenqing, but they weren't too late. They immediately began coordinating with Han Wenqing.

An Wenyi immediately had Little Cold Hands retreat, but when Li Yibo saw this scene, he couldn't help but sigh.

"What's wrong, Coach Li?" Pan Lin asked. It was very rare for Li Yibo to express such clear emotions during the playoffs.

"He's not experienced enough! In the end, An Wenyi is too inexperienced. He could have waited for a bit longer to see if Ye Xiu and the others could open up the situation and convene with him, but by running away, he's pulling away from Ye Xiu and the others, making it more difficult for them to help him." Li Yibo explained.

"Right!" Pan Lin thought about it and realized that Li Yibo was correct.

Tyranny's Han Wenqing was fast, but surrounding Little Cold Hands in a short amount of time was impossible. Their intent was to set up an offensive towards Little Cold Hands, restricting Happy's movements and seizing the initiative. By having Little Cold Hands immediately run away, An Wenyi was actually helping Tyranny. If they were able to completely separate An Wenyi from the rest of Happy, it wouldn't just be taking the initiative, but taking the win.

How could Tyranny's old generals miss such an opportunity?

Burst!

After conserving their energy for an entire season, if they didn't burst forth facing such a key opportunity, when else would they?

Boom boom boom!

Explosions would always be the loudest sounds on the battlefield. Zhang Jiale's Dazzling Hundred Blossoms went all out, not holding back on any of his attacks. A beautiful symphony of light and shadows was put on display.

Lin Jingyan's Dark Thunder immediately became more agile. He kept his distance from Lord Grim, Dancing Rain, and Boundless Sea, using Brawler skills like Provoke to harass them. Using a tiger's mouth to unsheath the blade was a phrase that suited his actions perfectly.

Qin Muyun's Negative Nine Degrees attacked Little Cold Hands the most directly. However, his offense wasn't to block him but to urge him to move faster. Tyranny hoped to see Little Cold Hands run faster. The faster the better for Tyranny.

At this point, all of the viewers understood what Li Yibo had been talking about. The important healer had been cut off from the rest of his team and was in danger of being chased down and killed. This situation was far more dangerous than Su Mucheng and Ye Xiu being trapped.

“Why isn’t Ye Xiu reminding An Wenyi!” Pan Lin said anxiously.

“It’s too late!” Li Yibo sighed, “How could Tyranny leave an opening for Happy to rescue him? As soon as An Wenyi took the first misstep, his retreat path was blocked off by Tyranny. In the end, Tyranny’s players are too experienced.”

Experience!

It was the most valuable treasure that old players had, and it constantly shined in Team Tyranny. Their team had the three most experienced players in the Glory Alliance apart from Ye Xiu.

Run!

Right now, Little Cold Hands was just running. No one said anything in the Happy chat to stop him. His Little Cold Hands ran for his life. It was his only choice. However, this was exactly what Tyranny wanted. The faster he ran, the farther he ran, the easier it would be for Tyranny.

Finally, Little Cold Hands ran until Ye Xiu and the others could no longer see him. They weren’t able to maintain the distance between them because Tyranny had been attacking them the entire time. Lord Grim and Dancing Rain weren’t doing too well in terms of health after just narrowly escaping. Tyranny had a healer assisting them too, so there was no way for them to fight too forcefully. What’s more, under Zhang Xinjie’s adjustments, Tyranny didn’t become imbalanced from pursuing Little Cold Hands too excessively. As Little Cold Hands ran, Tyranny put less attention towards him. As Little Cold Hands gradually vanished from Happy’s view, Tyranny also began to stop chasing after him until only Han Wenqing’s Desert Dust was the only one left in pursuit.

Han Wenqing versus a rookie healer...

On the other side, Ye Xiu, Su Mucheng, and Fang Rui, who weren’t in the best conditions, had to fight against four players from Tyranny, among them a healer.

It’s over...

Li Yibo really wanted to say these words. If this were the regular season, he would have made the conclusion. However, this was the playoffs. There was mystery all around, and he didn’t dare hastily reach a verdict.

What else could happen?

Li Yibo carefully pondered over this question and thought of Happy’s Luo Ji.

The battle had reached this step already, yet Luo Ji still wasn’t going to make his appearance? He wasn’t sent to the stage just to watch on the sides, could he?

Wait!

A thought flashed through Li Yibo’s mind.

Han Wenqing’s Desert Dust chased after Little Cold Hands to kill him on his own. What if Luo Ji suddenly appeared to rescue Little Cold Hands? A Summoner with a Cleric’s help could easily bully an extremely close-range fighter like a Striker.

Uh... I think?

A question mark jumped out when Li Yibo thought this. Under normal circumstances, the Striker would definitely be the one bullied. However, if the Striker was Han Wenqing, the fierce tiger Han Wenqing... An Wenyi? Luo Ji? These two were still university students and newcomers to the pro scene. Would they be able to hold down a wild tiger?

I'll just have to wait and see... Li Yibo shifted his gaze.

Even if the two took down Han Wenqing, they would have to go through much effort. What about the other end? Could Ye Xiu and the two others on Happy hold on against a strong offensive from four players on Tyranny? If the trade happened, the ones to lose out would probably be Happy!

As expected, there are no holes! Truly worthy of Zhang Xinjie.

Li Yibo's final season at Tyranny was the year that Zhang Xinjie joined the Alliance. That season, Tyranny defeated Excellent Era, who was going for their fourth consecutive championship win, stopping their dominance over the Glory League.

Zhang Xinjie had left a deep impression on Li Yibo that season. He felt a bit ashamed though. At that time, the seniors had paid more attention to this junior's robot-like lifestyle. Zhang Xinjie's talent at Glory had been overlooked due to his peculiarities. It wasn't until they won the championships with this healer, who never made mistakes, did they finally realize how incredible of a talent he was.

Separated by many years, Li Yibo looked at Zhang Xinjie again. Zhang Xinjie was more skilled and more experienced, but his style hadn't changed one bit.

Everyone talked about Han Wenqing's ten years of perseverance, but in reality, what never changed in Tyranny was Zhang Xinjie, no? It'd be easier to kill him than change his habits...

Two stubborn guys who refused to change had paired with each other despite their incompatibilities, yet they stubbornly persisted for so many years...

They had won a championship, but they didn't start a new era of dominance. Perhaps this was where the issue lay. They made a few changes, but there were places where they never changed.

And now, one of them had finally made some adjustments. Even though much of it was out of helplessness due to the passing of time, it wasn't a bad thing. The two core members of Tyranny, their sharpest spear and sturdiest shield, were finally fighting alongside each other together as one for the first time.

Win!

Li Yibo had always been a very very professional commentator. But at this moment, when he saw Tyranny realize the potential that they hadn't been able to realize for many years, at the final moments of Han Wenqing's career, he didn't hesitate to stand by Tyranny. He could only hope that it hadn't come too late. He hoped to see these two win another championship.

Go Tyranny!

Li Yibo cheered in his heart. He didn't lose his rationale though. If he expressed such obvious bias during the broadcast, he would probably be laid off.

At this moment, the broadcast had finally cut to Luo Ji's perspective.

Concealed Light had been moving the entire time. A small screen had followed along for quite some time now. From his position on the map, Li Yibo could confirm Luo Ji's movements.

Concealed Light wasn't moving to attack Han Wenqing. Instead, he was rushing over to the side of the battle with more people.

As expected!

Team Happy wasn't stupid. Having Luo Ji ambush Han Wenqing definitely wasn't a wise move. However, how much help could he provide to the other side? Tyranny's side had a healer. Even if it was a 4v4, Happy would still be at a disadvantage. Perhaps Happy was regretting not putting Tang Rou in first? With her energy and drive, no matter if she attacked Desert Dust or joined the other battle, she would have a better chance at turning the situation around.

What could Luo Ji do?